

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Standing Committee on Service Development & Liaison
Progress Report (April – May 2007)

Service Planning & Development

1. **Rehabilitation Programme Plan review**

Noting that the review was near to completion and there were a few of our recommendations not included in the final draft of the new RPP, the Council wrote to SHWF in March 2007 requesting their reconsideration and reiterating the importance of maintaining regular forum with the sector for better monitoring the implementation of the new Plan. The last and 16th meeting of the review working group was held in late April to round up the whole review process. The finalized RPP draft was expected to be ready for endorsement of Rehabilitation Advisory Committee in May 2007, followed by a briefing session with the sector and a report to Legislative Council's Welfare Panel in June/July.

2. **Jockey Club Making Substantial Changes in Sponsoring Rehabilitation's Overseas Exposure Tours**

It has been a good partnership in the past two decades that funding has been provided by Jockey Club Charities Trust to partially subsidize, through coordination of Joint Council, rehabilitation workers and people with disabilities to participate in overseas conferences and study visits. Last year, the Trust made a change for not allowing Council staff to entitle to any subsidies and a review was subsequently conducted on the effectiveness of this project. In mid May, Joint Council was informed that a grant was approved for this year but the subsidies would only be provided to board members or frontline workers of self-help organizations, and no longer be available for workers of rehabilitation agencies. The rationales given by Jockey Club were to help those most vulnerable, and believing that subvented agencies under Lump Sum Grant are resourceful and have flexibility in deploying resources for staff training and development including overseas exposures. In the face of these substantial changes, the Management Committee of Joint Council is considering ways for negotiation with Jockey Club.

3. **Debate on Minimum Wage**

Council was invited to make a presentation at the meeting of Legco's Panel on Manpower in April 2007, to deliberate the minimum wage issue for people with disabilities. We proposed to introduce a simplified productivity-based assessment for determining the wage level of people with disabilities, and also a second minimum wage for those who are unable to work at full productive capacity (say 70% of the overall productivity). Exemption could be granted for those with minimal level of work capacity but with intention to work in open market. The Economic Development and Labor Bureau replied that they will organize a study visit to Australia this autumn to examine the viability of such an assessment system.

4. **IFSC Review**

The Council had further consulted views of the frontline workers and service operating agencies of IFSCs on the scope, framework and methodology of the review. The views were consolidated and shared with SWD.

5. **Child Fatality Review and Child Protection**

The Council advocated and proposed for a Domestic Violence Serious Injury and Fatality Review Mechanism in 2004. Now, the SWD responded by setting up a Child Fatality Review with intensive review on child welfare related cases. The Council commented the Government's scope of review too narrow that the review should not be welfare-focused only. A multi-disciplinary approach should be adopted to review lesson learnt for system improvement so as to build up a child-friendly and safe environment in Hong Kong. The Council will co-organize focus group and discussion forums on this subject in June and July.

6. **Day Foster Care Service and Day Care in Small Group Home**

SWD planned to launch Day Foster Care Service (40 places) and Day Care in Small Group Home (36 places) and had called two consultative meetings with the operators. Concerns and suggestions were exchanged. SWD is now drafting the FSA and all other related documents for sector's further comment. Initial implementation time proposed to be August 2007. Operators had expressed their worries about short lead-time to SWD recently and hope SWD could send out the drafted documents as soon as possible.

Topical Discussion & Mutual Learning

7. **Good practice collection on mentoring scheme**

Good practice handbook on mentoring scheme was published and it consisted of theory and practice on mentoring concept and the survey result of mentoring scheme in different sectors related to children and youth. Four common models of mentoring scheme namely, community based, faith based, school based and corporate based programs were included.

8. **Day Camp Training on Career Development Skills for Social Workers and Teachers**

In collaboration with EMB, a 1-day camp training on career development skills for social workers and teachers was held on April 21 in response to the keen participation and opinions from the previously held workshop of career development. The purpose for this training day camp is to enhance the handling skills and micro skills in career development for the low or unmotivated youth.

9. **Workshop on Outcome Evaluation in Elderly Services**

A workshop on Outcome Evaluation in Elderly Services was held on April 25, 2007. Among the 42 participants, around 85 % found the content relevant and the workshop insightful. The Council was working on further development on outcome evaluation in elderly services development.

Special Event

10. Training Workshops on Communication with People with Disabilities in Workplace

Upon the request of Hong Kong Post and Hong Kong Disneyland, Council arranged two training workshops on working and communicating with people with disabilities in March and May 2007 respectively, aiming to equip their staff with proper skills and attitude in working with disabled colleagues. There were over 70 participants attended the two workshops in total and good responses were received. Moreover, Hong Kong Disneyland would launch an apprenticeship programme in June to provide 18 training opportunities for people with disabilities.

Presentation at Legco

| Panel | Date of Meeting | Topic of Presentation |
|--|-----------------|--|
| Administration of Justice and Legal Services | April 23, 2007 | Juvenile justice system |
| Welfare | May 14, 2007 | Child fatality review and child protection |

Overseas Events

- ~ 3rd International Conference on Child Exposed to Domestic Violence and Post Conference Study Visit on Working with Child Victim in Domestic Violence (May 9 – 16, 2007 at London, and Ontario, Canada)
- ~ 22nd IFNGO International Conference (May 16 - 18, 2007 at Macau)